The Chronicle

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Volume 20 Issue 23 **Monday, April 29, 2002**

Budget discussed at town hall meeting

CHRISTOPHER JONES
News Writer

PUC held this semester's town hall meeting April 26 in order to address issues with the school and state budget.

The agenda of the meeting included the state's fiscal situation, the PUC budget for 2002-2003 and enrollment management. Indiana faces a projected deficit of $1.3 billion, which has forced budget cuts for universities in 2002 and 2003. In that time span, PUC faces a grand total net cash loss of $4,755,000 and needs to recoup that amount. To get back the budget that PUC will lose, tuition will be raised 10 percent in hopes of generating $2.2 million from returning and new students. New students will pay an extra $16 per credit hour under the strategic plan increase, in addition to the 10 percent tuition increase, in order to recoup $820,000 towards the budget cuts.

Chancellor Howard Cohen maintained that budget cuts will not be coming out of faculty salaries and department budgets, and in addition to raising tuition, budget cuts will come out of the reserve. There is currently $1.4 million in the reserves, which includes department/ work unit allocations and principle year cash and gift balance, which is carried forward to the next year to be allocated.

Cohen said that there are no layoffs planned, but that the strategic plan increase is based on a projected enrollment of 181,000 billable credit hours. If credit hours are short of the projected 181,000, then the school budget will be readdressed. Cohen stated that the tuition increase is being set in order to be committed to strategic planning, to protect the student's investment and to prepare for possible additional budget cuts.

Student enrollment was a concern addressed at the meeting. Through increased enrollment PUC believes that it can offset budget cuts. Even with increased enrollment Gary Newsom, vice chancellor of administrative services, believes that students are carrying too much of a load. Student fees make up 48 percent of PUC's $56.47 million operating fund. Newsom said he was concerned about new students having to pay a 23 percent increase in tuition and was not sure what the reaction from the increase would be.

Projected student enrollment shows that 7,562 undergraduate students are currently paying 88 percent of the billable hours, and are targeted to make up the bulk of the 181,000 billable hours that is required to address the budget over the next three years. Of the current students

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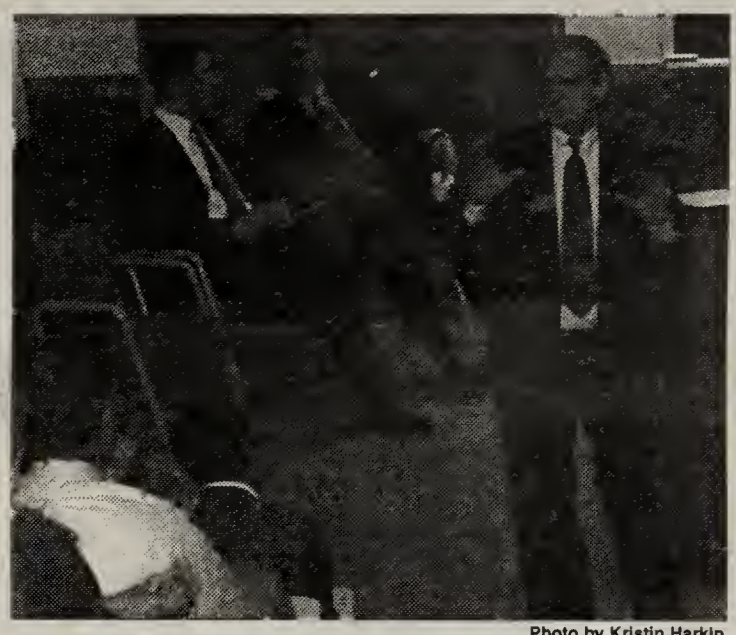

Photo by Kristin Harkin

Chancellor Cohen answers questions at the town board meeting held Friday.

3rd annual benefit concert to be held

Photo on file

The band Quarter Turn volunteered their time and played at PUC's Second Annual Charity Concert last year.

ESTEBAN GARICA
News Writer

A benefit concert will be held May 18 in Alumni Hall at PUC. The concert will raise funds and awareness for Haven House in Hammond and the African-American Cultural Awareness Museum in Gary. Cost of admission is $5 with a student ID, or clothing or food donation, and $7 without an ID or donation. The show will start a 5 p.m. and will run until 1 a.m. *The Chronicle*, Student Government Association and UPS are sponsoring the event.

Haven House provides employment services, housing and protection for abused women and their children, according to concert organizer Lorrell Kilpatrick.

"The reason for choosing Haven House as one of the beneficiaries of the event is to promote awareness of the services they provide and to raise volunteer awareness there as well," she said.

Amy Aurelio, another event organizer, stated that when the issue arose of which organization the concert would benefit, her and Kilpatrick chose according to which organization could be benefited the most and needed the most help. Aurelio also said that the diversity of the area helped facilitate the choices.

While the organizers stress the importance of the event for both organizations, they also point out the benefits for the bands playing as well.

"Not only will the concert give PUC less of a commuter college image, it will give the bands involved much sought-after exposure," said Aurelio. "[The bands] can be seen and heard while helping raise money and having a good time."

"It's also a way of giving something back to the community, not only on the band level, but also for the organizations," added Kilpatrick.

Aurelio and Kilpatrick hope to diversify the musical genres being represented as much as possible. For the past two years, the benefit concert has been successful, but some think the acts lack diversity.

"There's gong to be 5 or 6 [bands], the more diverse the better. Hip-hop, rap, rock, even country," Kilpatrick said. "We're inviting everyone to come try out [to be a part of the show]."

Any artists who wish to perform for the benefit can contact Aurelio or Kilpatrick at (219) 989-2547.

School of education proves "marvelous turnaround" with state mandated test

KRISTIN HARKIN
Editor in Chief

One hundred percent of elementary education students who completed PUC's teacher education curriculum during the 2000-2001 academic year passed Indiana required content teaching proficiency tests.

The education department was on academic probation until March of this year.

"We came out of probation with a bang," said Robert Rivers, director of the school of education. "We have one of the best programs in the state at this level."

"We had a marvelous turnaround," Rivers said.

PUC was on probation because of lack of resources and the unstable structure for teacher education. The structure for teacher education means that the school of education needs to have a good relationship with individual departments with secondary education.

"There was not a good structure," said Rivers.

PUC was placed on probation on a "risk list." If the school had been placeed at the next level in the category of "under performing" institution, the school would have lost all federal funding.

Linda Manes, the school of education licensing adviser, said the classes have been realigned so there are less repeat classes and focus more on state and national education standards. This has allowed students to make a better connection.

"I think that since I have been here, they've tried to address state standards a little bit more," said recent elementary education graduate Darrin Davis.

"We are pleased with the progress we made in 2000-2001 in preparing our students to pass basic skills and content area tests at the state mandated levels," Rivers said. "Our students continue to contribute significantly to the educational development of our region and state."

Robert said the school is in compliance with Title II of federal Higher Education Act (HEA), which requires we report to various aspects of their institution and teacher education program an institutional report card. The institutional report card includes the pass rate of students who complete the program.

"This report card is a snapshot of performance for the 2000-2001 academic year. It gives information only on the basic skills of preparation of teacher candidates and their knowledge of content for their teaching area," Rivers said.

While tough, new student academic standards have been the focus of education reform in Indiana, the Title II HEA requirement is intended to measure the way teachers are trained and licensed by requiring them to demonstrate mastery of their subject, the material and the ability to teach it effectively.

> "We came out of probation with a bang," said Robert Rivers, director of the school of education. "We have one of the best programs in the state at this level."
> Robert Rivers, director of the school of education

"The Purdue Calumet School of Education conducts performance reviews throughout a teaching candidate's program. These reviews, together with the test data provided here, can be valuable in preceding a candidate's eventual success as a teacher," Rivers said.

Last academic year, 93 percent of PUC students completing a teacher education program passed all state mandated tests. The 93 percent pass rate is based on 81 of 87 teacher education program completers last year who recorded passing marks on the series of state mandates tests. That has increased from 88 percent the previous year.

Manes said the students have always done well on the tests. The statewide pass rate was 95 percent.

Those tests measure basic skills, professional skills, knowledge, teaching skills and content in the individual's area of specialization.

Reporting test results is required on programs with more than 10 graduates.

Since institutional teacher preparation programs differ in ways such as admission requirements, program features, educational mission and the population served, Rivers points out that making sense of the reported data requires significant review of the characteristics of each institution and its programs. Simply comparing pass rates between institutions offers an "apples to oranges" perspective.

Another difference in comparing programs is in the relationship between passing the state mandated tests and institutional program completion. Many colleges and universities require that their teacher education students pass the state required tests before graduating, which would result in 100 percent pass rates for those schools. PUC requires successful test completion before it recommends a student for a teaching license, but does not require passing the content as a prerequisite to program completion.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Yes, the state's financial woes are affecting our campus

TOWN HALL meeting to discuss the effect of Indiana's financial shortfall on Purdue Calumet will be held Friday, April 26 at 9 a.m. in Gyte 107. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

As the local news media has been reporting, Indiana's budget and financial shortfall stands to affect higher education in general and Purdue Calumet specifically in significant and unprecedented ways.

In anticipation of possible budget cuts, this administration announced last fall campus contingency plans for responding to our state's fiscal crisis. While we had hoped that our prudent planning would keep us ahead of a worst-case scenario, the state's budget woes have continued, with more spending cuts in the offing.

Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Gary Newsom calls the state's financial picture and its impact on higher education the worst he's seen in his 35+ years at Purdue Calumet.

Stand to lose nearly $4.5 million

During this 2001-03 biennium, Purdue Calumet stands to lose nearly $4.5 million in funding originally allocated to our campus. Included in that price tag are dollars for campus upkeep and technology.

"Our goal is to maintain a quality academic environment, so as not to diminish our students' learning experience," Newsom said. "But what's disconcerting is the uncertainty of this whole thing. *Everything I read indicates there will be more cuts. Hopefully,* by mid-April, we'll have a more defined and stable view of the situation."

Nonetheless, students, faculty and staff will experience next fall the fallout of budgetary cutbacks, according to Newsom.

"We'll definitely be looking at a change of routine in the services we provide and related response times on campus," he said. "There likely will be a diminished level of cleaning and upkeep of our facilities.

"Our labs will be affected in that we won't be able to replace and upgrade technology and equipment as we would desire. While we were just getting up to where we felt we needed to be in terms of technology enhancement, we'll be falling behind due to the state's indicated cuts."

Faced with challenges

Further complicating the matter are projects and initiatives that are in various stages of development and implementation. They include Phase 1 of the Gyte renovation project, in which an overhaul of the chemistry labs is set to begin this summer. There's also the campus strategic plan, an ambitious investment designed to help students succeed to graduation.

"It's going to be a challenge to move ahead," Newsom said.

So how do we plan to do so?

That will be the focus of a campus-wide, 90-minute "town hall" meeting, scheduled Friday, April 26 at 9 a.m. in Gyte 107. It's open to students, faculty and staff, and it figures to offer a strategic perspective from the Purdue Board of Trustees, who meet April 12.

Yes, these are trying times for Purdue Calumet and other campuses around the state. But we plan to move forward with our vision, goals and plans. We do not plan to compromise the future of our students.

What's goin' on?

A look around campus

Graduate students needed for GSA

The Graduate Student Association is looking for graduate students who are interested in meeting other students and becoming involved on campus. Anyone interested can contact Teresa Peterson for more information at (219) 844-3245 or teresapetersen@hotmail.com. Petersen can also be found in the Center for Career and Leadership Development, SFLC, room C-349, on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

CCLD sponsors End of the Year Reception

The Center for Career and Leadership Development will sponsor an evening of food, fun and networking at the End of the Year Reception. The event, hosted by the SGA, will give all PUC student organizations the chance to meet the new Associate Director of Student Life and Activities Gloria Roldan-Schieb. The reception will also include giveaways. Register by May 2 at CCLD, located in SFLC-349 or call (219) 989-2369.

Coffeehouse style poetry reading to be held

"Coffee and Verse," a coffeehouse-style poetry reading, will be held on April 30 at 6 p.m. in Founders' Study, next to Alumni Hall. All are welcome to share their poetry. For more information contact SGA at (219) 989-2394 or e-mail JadeLeeCulberson4SGA@hotmail.com.

Summer jobs are offered

Canoe trip outfitter in Ely, Minnesota is looking for students to work in the summer. The job includes free room, board, and transportation. Salary is $3000 for the summer. Summer ending bonus also possible. For more information and an application please contact Doug Jordan at (219) 365-9955.

People needed for Cinco De Mayo Tribute

Positions needing to be filled are: Wardrobe assistance, videotaping, props, singers and dancers. For more information contact Moina M. Bey at (219) 989-2366.

Sociology club seeks new members

The PUC Sociology club seeks members. Please join them and help plan the summer program 2002. The next meetings are Tuesday, April 23 at 2:00 pm and Thursday, April 25 at 5:00 pm. All meetings are held in Gyte 115. See their webpage at ljfork.tripod.com

Sigma Gamma Rho seeks new members

Got sisterhood? Contact Lavetta Williams for more information about membership at (219) 981-3707 or email at divasup@aol.com.

PSA announces results

On Wednesday, April 24, the Political Science Association held its last meeting of the semester. Students of all majors, but mainly political scientists, met to discuss what they would like to see the political science club to do in the fall. Students had great feedback. Next spring expect to see events including; guest speakers, job fairs, registering voters, and debates sponsored by the political science club.

The club also held elections. The results were as follows; President Nicole Mikula, Vice President of Political Affairs Andy J. Gaffney, Vice President of Social Affairs Rachel Cannon, Vice President of Communication Jonathan A. Hall, Secretary Katarina Pamucar, Treasurer T. J. Wigmore, and Assistant Advisor Nick Orange. Congratulations to those who were elected. Also thanks to Professor Defelice for his assistance and advice.

Say what?

'Piscem natare doces'

-Anonymous

The Chronicle

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Town Hall

Continued from page 1

that attend PUC, 48 percent of them pay through student loans, while 39 percent pay through grants/ scholarships.

As far as faculty is concemed, the current budget provides allocations of $42 million for salaries and wages, and nearly $14.5 million for supplies and expenses. The faculty present at the meeting had a concern with the increasing medical costs, that make up $3.7 million of the budget. This number is higher than the amount spent on retirement costs, which is of concern to younger faculty members, if the price of medical costs continue to increase.

The speakers at the town meeting emphasized that enrollment is the key to maintaining the school budget. Paul McGuinness, director of admission and recruitment, said that PUC has set plans to target students in order to increase enrollment. PUC has targeted incomplete students, newly admitted students, students who enrolled in spring 2002 but not in fall 2002, in hopes of retaining them. These students will be called and have advising appointments set. PUC will also establish profiles on successful students in order to showcase the education and facilities that the campus offers, in an effort to retain and attract students.

"Enrollment is a solution, we have our destiny in our hands with enrollment," McGuinness said.

Students finishing their education at PUC is also a concern, with the percentage of those who graduate from PUC after six years being lower than the percentage of those who graduate from a comparable university after six years. There are currently 13,000 active students (students who have attended PUC in the last two years) versus around 9300 students who are currently enrolled at PUC.

Cohen said that town meetings will be held every semester to keep the faculty and student body informed about the school's financial and enrollment situation. And Newsom also believes that town hall meetings are important to the body of PUC.

The PUC Police Report

Tuesday, April 16, 12 p.m.
A park car was struck by another unknown vehicle sometime between 9 a.m. and noon.

Wednesday April 17, 2:45 p.m.
A person sustained pain in the left leg, hip and lower back after mopping. No treatment was given.

Thursday, April 18, 3:25 p.m.
A person sustained a small cut and a bruise on the right forearm after it was closed in a filing cabinet drawer. No treatment was given.

Friday, April 19, 11 a.m.
A staff member, driving a university vehicle, inadvertently struck a tree while backing up.

Friday, April 19, 12 p.m.
A staff member received an unsolicited e-mail. The case is under investigation.

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The Chronicle

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Spring 2002
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Students left in the dark about future toxic waste dump

At the beginning of the 2002 Spring semester, LUCHAR hosted Jose Bustos to speak to the PUC community. Bustos is the chairman of the Coalition for a Clean Environment, a committee formed to oppose the construction of a CDF in East Chicago. This CDF is said to potentially be the largest toxic waste storage facility in the nation.

Bustos spoke to those in attendance about the ramifications of having a toxic waste facility built in the middle of a residential community.

This proposed waste facility is to be built 800 yards away from East Chicago Central High School, Westside Junior High School and a vast number of houses.

Since then, members of the Coalition for a Clean Environment have spoken at many locations in order to educate residents of surrounding cities about the impending danger this disposal facility imposes. Chemicals including but not limited to benzene and mercury are to be housed in this unlined, uncovered structure. This toxic waste area will remain without a ceiling for years after it is built and experts have said that many of the chemicals stored there are known to become airborne after a period of time.

Directly in the path of this toxic cloud will be PUC. Students from surrounding cities such as Cedar Lake, Merrillville, Schererville, Michigan City and Illinois will be exposed to toxins that have been linked to lung cancer and have been known to cause asthma, emphysema and death.

Amazingly, there has been no publicized response or comment from the administration, as far up as President Jischke, to the student body about this impending hazard. No words of reassurance, camaraderie of concern; nothing.

From the very start, it has been students leading the way in this struggle to inform people about the danger that they will all be in if this facility is allowed to be constructed. Speaking engagements at IUN and local libraries have helped the Coalition for a Clean Environment to get the message out and recruit members to help them fight the construction of the CDF.

What is the university's response to this environmental threat?

Immediately after the terrorist attacks, the administration was swift in their efforts to support and comfort the student body. The students and faculty learned together and then took action to raise funds and to further spread awareness. Now, at the forefront of a potentially dangerous and equally threatening environmental crisis, the administration's response seems slow to the point of being nil.

What is this saying to the PUC students, especially those who live in East Chicago, about the university's vested interest in them? In the very community the university is in the middle of?

An informative forum about the effects of this construction and what it will mean for PUC is needed and welcomed by a concemed majority of the student body. An invitation for the Coalition for a Clean Environment to come and educate those who are not aware of this threat has been extended. The same invitation has been extended to administrators and faculty members who feel they can also offer information about this situation. Will both answer with the same vigor? Only time will tell.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

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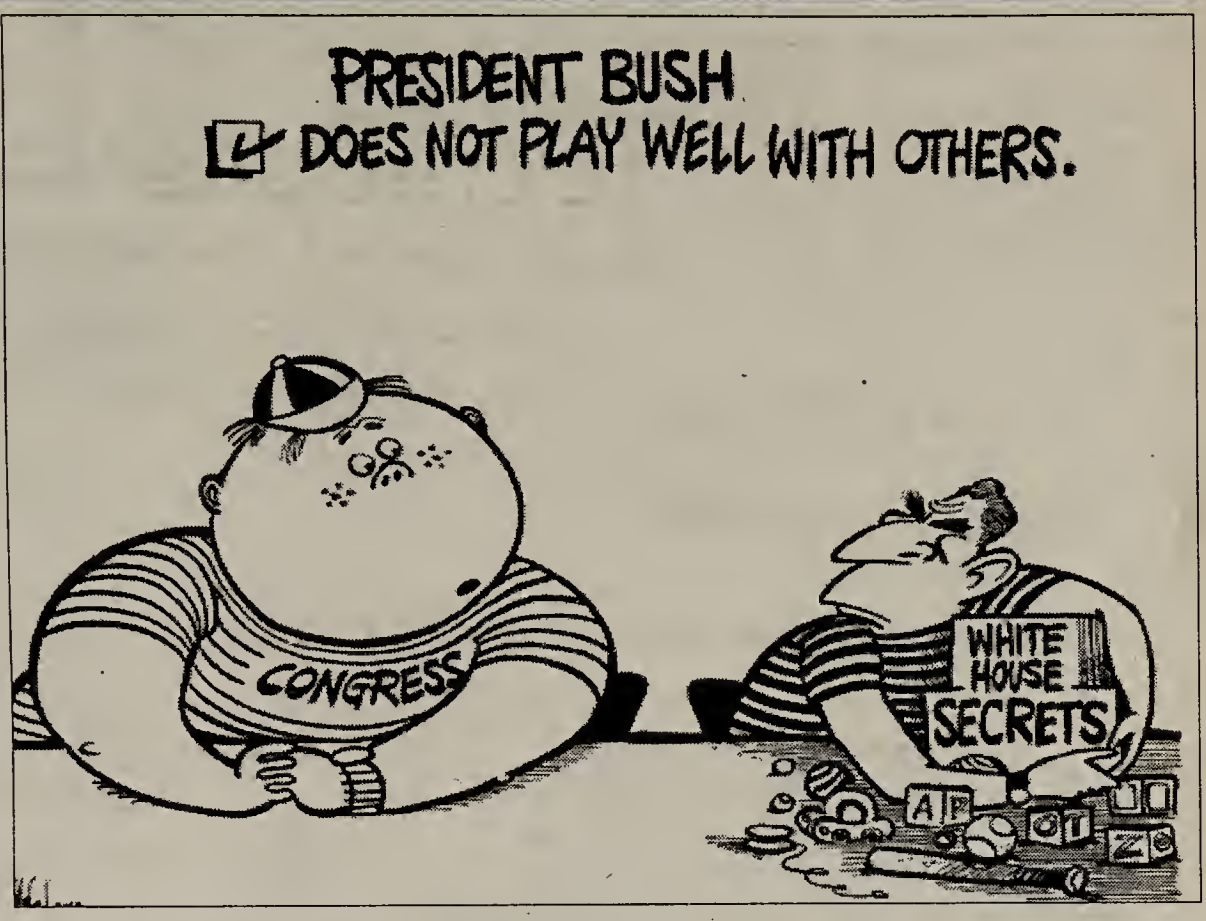
The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is noon the Monday before publication.



Miscommunication arises about required new student ID's

On April 2, 2002 Purdue University Calumet held a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome the long awaited Student ID booth. The purpose of the ID is to connect students to the University. I am pleased the university hopes to have a standard ID, but the connection that is lacking is the means of communication with its students.

When the ID committee was asked how soon the ID's had to be obtained, it was stated at the ceremony that the process would start with incoming freshman in an attempt to have everyone with an ID within a few semesters. Along with every other student on the mailing list, I am a frequent receiver of Purdue University Calumet postcards and literature about what's happening on campus. I have not received any literature saying there is a new ID that I am required to have as student. When I did not receive any thing I assumed there was no rush to get the ID's out. We all will soon find out that the new ID is required on campus for simple walk up task.

When you decide to return a book you are no longer using or a book used a couple of semesters ago, don't plan on selling it back to the Calumet Campus Shop without the newly released student ID. It is already a given that you need a current school schedule to purchase software, but now you have to accompany school ID with that. In the mood to workout? Not if you haven't made the trip to the ID booth in SFLC first. It does not matter if you parked by Gyte and only took your blue fitness center ID with your keys. Now you have to cross 173rd again because you have just been told the blue card is not accepted anymore. 'Assassins' is being performed by Purdue University Calumets Theatre Company on April 20-21and 27-28. Admission is free to Purdue University Calumet students as long as long as you have an ID.

Although student ID's are greatly needed and appreciated for the discounts they provide our ID's are still not as accessible to all the students that the university so much wants to connect with. A glance at a schedule of classes will show you how many courses are offered at night as a convenience to students that cannot attend during the day. With this in mind the hours of operation for the student ID booth are Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. It will close for lunch and reopen from 1:30 p.m. until 6:30p.m. I don't now how those attending school at night are supposed to sell books back, workout in the Fitness Center, or attend student activities. If it is necessary to have an ID, I suggest the ID committee inform the student body via mail. That way the message will reach them and they will know before they get to their objective.

The People Speak

Question of the Week:

How do you think the toxic waste dump that will be built in East Chicago will effect you?

Hosea Paradise
Sophomore, Pre-Med

" I am not going to live there long but that would make it bad."

Alejandro Campos
Junior, Criminal Justice

"In the community no one will like it, it will diminish property value."

Richard Sargent
Senior, Management

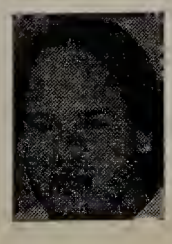
"It will chase out people instead of staying they will leave. Instead of making the communities grow."

Dave Torres
Junior, Construction Technology

"Its bad because it is too populated in Northwest Indiana."

Ryan Cleveringa
Sophomore, Construction Technology

"The toxins are going to airborne everyone will breathe them so it will effect everyone."



Christopher Diamond
Grad student

"In the long run it's a bad idea you should never store toxic waste near populated areas. It is not worth the risk of leakage."

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"Scorpion King" lacks sting

ESTEBAN GARCIA
News Writer

For the unfamiliar, the Scorpion King was introduced in the movie "The Mummy Returns." In that movie, the king was presented as a ruthless military genius that wanted to conquer the world. Long story short: world domination slipped his grasp and that was that.

Now here comes "The Scorpion King," the cleverly titled story of how the assassin Mathayus, played by World Wrestling Federation superstar The Rock, becomes, well, The Scorpion King. In this cinematic gem, Memnon, played by Stephen Brand in his first starring role, is the current monarch of a good portion of the world. He achieved this status not as a result of his genius, but because a sorceress (Kelly Hu of "Martial Law" fame) who can predict the future tells him what to do. Memnon's surviving enemies, which include Michael Clarke Duncan ("Planet of the Apes") and The Rock, plot against him to gain freedom or revenge or something. Basically after that, The Rock steals the sorceress and gets chased around by Memnon's cronies. There's humor, there's fighting, there's bloodshed; there's the predictable ending, then the credits. Gee, thanks.

"The Rock" stars as the character Mathayus in "The Scorpion King."

I suppose in this sense though, it can be argued that "The Scorpion King" has something for everyone: plenty of action, suspense, humor, and yes, even romance. The lack of anything spiritual save the sorceress is a welcome change as well. There are no undead warriors chasing our hero, and no interference from Anubis or Isis or any Egyptian deity at all. It's fitting, as they have no real place in this film, though I am genuinely surprised the filmmakers didn't try to shove them in somewhere.

Now, the problem with the movie isn't really the acting or the action. The Rock does an excellent job in his first starring role as the future would-be conqueror of the world. He proved himself a very capable action star in this movie, and may one day prove to be a very versatile actor if directors can look past the muscles and commercial possibilities of linking him exclusively to action movies. Kelly Hu's previous acting experience helps make the movie less painful, and together they make a wonderful on-screen duo.

Now here's where I'm having a problem. The Scorpion King introduced to us in "The Mummy Returns" isn't exactly the one portrayed in this film. Here, The Rock is uninterested in world domination—he actually just wants revenge. Also, he is shown as a merciful and loving (after a fashion) kind of guy, not the merciless, cold-blooded conqueror/evil warrior person in "The Mummy Returns." Basically, the personalities portrayed of the two Scorpion Kings in the movies we've seen him in don't match up, and it bothers me.

While I was at times able to temporarily forget about this inconsistency in some of the action sequences, the uneven feeling of the film only fueled my disappointment. The comic relief seems forced and thrown in only for the sake of achieving some kind of balance, but it never really works. The movie jumps from interesting, to action, to funny, to suspenseful with funny, to action with funny, to action, then discourse, and so on. While at times amusing, the general flow of the movie was interrupted at inconvenient times.

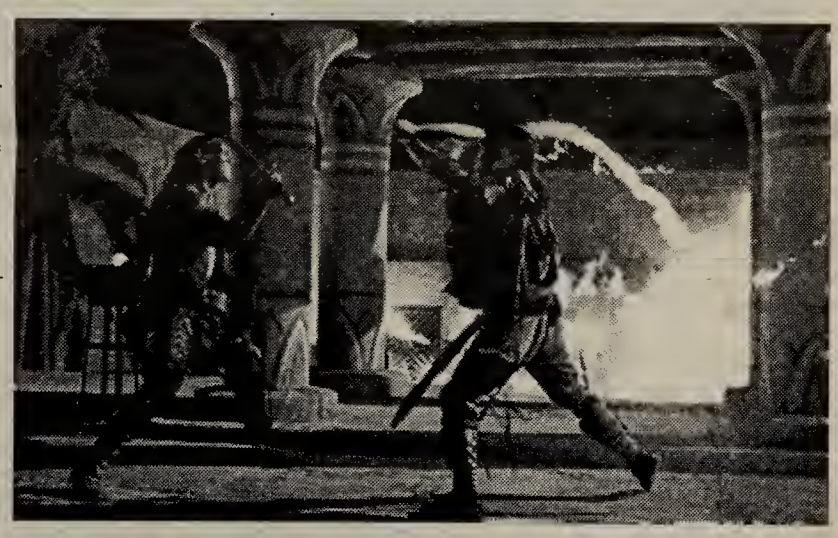
Character inconsistency and lack of fluidity aside, "The Scorpion King" really isn't too bad. There are no painfully obvious (read: laughable) computer generated images of anyone as a giant scorpion (sorry if I ruined that for you), and all the fight scenes are well choreographed and exciting. The Rock/Kelly Hu duo is enjoyable, and Brand's portrayal of Memnon meets all the standard expectations of a villain.

After all is said and done, "The Scorpion King" is a decent movie if you can shut your mind off for a little bit and drop all preconceived notions of the character. It is your average summer action movie blockbuster, but then again, there isn't exactly anything wrong with that. The key here is to not think. After all, if the screenwriters didn't, then neither should you.

Finally, "The Rock" has come back to the big screen in the movie "The Scorpion King."

"Scorpian King"

★★ 1/2



"The Rock" and Steven Brand fight in a grueling duel against each other in the new movie "The Scorpion King."

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The other side of presidential history

TERRENCE ISBELL
Entertainment Writer

John Wilkes Booth. Lee Harvey Oswald. Charles Guiteau. Names synonymous with infamy and depravity in our nation's history. Immediate thoughts of these people spring to the somewhat questionable motives that led them to assassinate past presidents of the United States. However, what you didn't know is that they all have a flair for singing and dancing as well as any member of the "Cats" ensemble. Well, maybe that's stretching the truth a bit, but in the Theatre Company of Purdue Calumet's rendition of the musical "Assassins," you'd never doubt it for a second.

Playwright Stephen Sondheim's musical focusing on various individuals that have assassinated or attempted to assassinate U.S. presidents can only be described as an extremely dark comedy, with a little political satire tossed in for good measure. Its opening scene features a shooting gallery, complete with carnie barker trying to persuade passer-bys to "kill a President." By some unexplained phenomenon, all of the assassins from different time periods are in the same place at the same time, and each is convinced by the carnival barker to step right up and take their place in history as a presidential killer.

The entire musical moves from person to person, each breaking down in song (or in some cases, just breaking down, period) their reasons for killing the president of their time period. In certain instances when the stress of determining the pros and cons of their future choice, the task of musical exposition was given to the Balladeer (played by Kevin Bellamy), who steps in on occasion to progress the story of each person, as well as their untimely demise. The fact that killing public figures is somewhat frowned upon in general is what makes the play even more morbidly bizarre as each character sings in the most upbeat tone possible about how great it would be to be the lover of Charlie Manson (the second top goal of assassin Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, played by Sherry VerWey), or to kill Richard Nixon in the White House by flying an airplane into it, the goal of Samuel Byck (played by Bob Cooley) in 1974.

The musical reaches its climax when all of the assassins of the past pay a visit to Lee Harvey Oswald, the future assassinator of John F. Kennedy. When confronted by these figures, Oswald is torn between living his sham of a life, or taking his place in history alongside the others, something the assassins feel will redeem them all in the end.

"Assassins" alone is enough of an eerie mind trip on its own, but it's the actors that take on the personas of the characters in such a happy, gleeful, suburban like way that makes it all the more an incredible experience. The cast of Nathaniel Deabel as John Wilkes Booth, Robert T. Clark as the self-promoting, too happy at times assassinator of James Garfield, Steve Becker as Giuseppe Zangara, and Heather Brickman as Sara Jane Moore (who provided many a comedic moment amongst some of the moodiness) took it upon themselves to bring these characters back to life, even if it was in some alternate universe where they all could meet at a bar and discuss life.

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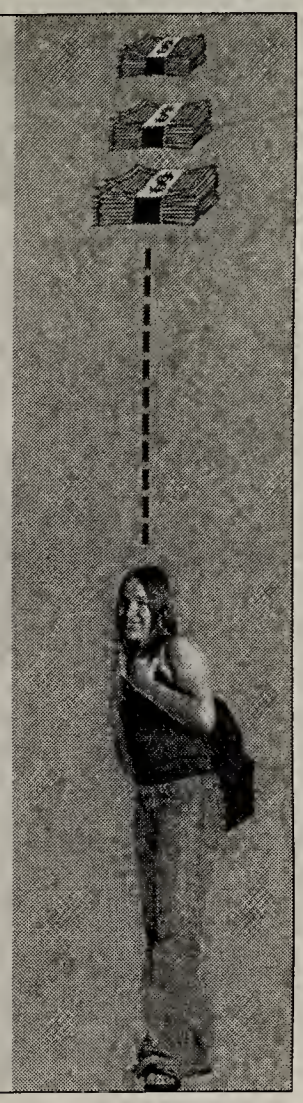
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Purdue University Calumet
2002 Cinco de Mayo Productions
Creativity Tribute: Building Community

"Ceviche in Pittsburgh "
Written by
Jose' Castro Urioste, Associate Professor of Spanish
Directed by
J Allen Johnson
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

Show will be held at The Center at Purdue University Calumet
1/3 mile north of I-80/94. Three blocks east of Indianapolis Blvd. On 173rd Street. Right at the first traffic light.
Building in the back of the parking lot
May 5th at 2:00pm
Free to the Public

This is the second in the series of "Creativity Tribute: Building Community" initiative from the Chancellor's office.

The Sprankle Confines

"South Side Hitmen" of 2002 introduced

FRANK SPRANKLE
Sports Editor

The 1977 White Sox team were known as the South Side Hitmen, because they had a lineup that featured the likes of Richie Zisk who hit .290 with 30 homeruns and 101 RBI's, Oscar Gamble's .297 average, 31 homeruns, and 83 RBI's; and Eric Soderholm's .280 average, 25 homers, and 67 RBI's. Infact, the everyday lineup had eight players hitting .280 or better.

Today, a quarter century later, this year's White Sox team is starting to become the "South Side Hitmen" for this generation, or if the hitmen title can only relate to the 1977 ball club, then the "South Side Swingmen" is another good way to phrase this team, whatever.

In only a season that has reached four weeks, the White Sox have been winning, going most recently 13-7, and trying to hold on to the top spot in the American League Central with the likes of the Cleveland Indians and Minnesota Twins on their tails.

But the White Sox have been managing to find wins by scoring runs. Five of the early 13 victories have come with 10 or more runs, while other times, they have finished with scores of the likes of 8-2 and 7-1.

Obliviously there have been plenty of hitmen or swingmen thus far. Bringing Kenny Lofton back home to play for the Sox has paid off, but then again this was expected, for through 19 games, he hit .400 and has led the way in total hits with 30 and runs scored with 26, not to mention 11 stolen bases.

Paul Konerko has been off to his best start already in his career with a .246 average, 23 hits, and has led the Sox with 23 RBI's, while Magglio Ordonez has hit .333 with 24 hits, eight of which doubles, and 13 RBI's. And Frank Thomas has come back after being sidelined due to injury, hitting .279 with four homeruns.

It may be a little early to call this White Sox ball club the "South Side Hitmen" or Swingmen let. Plenty of baseball remains before anything of that extend good be said, but from the team that won 95 games two season's ago to win the A.L. Central Division Title, this year seems to be a little better for folks around the South Side Irish Pubs and all White Sox fans in general.

Jensen pleased with first full year as director of fitness, wellness, and sports

FRANK SPRANKLE
Sports Editor

Rob Jensen's first full year as Director of Fitness, Wellness and Sports has just about come to an end. And in that time, intramurals have expanded and the basketball programs have drawn considerably well.

In 1986, Jensen came to PUC in helping to form the Total Fitness Center (TFC). Since then, the center has grown to receive popularity on a local and even on a national level. Only rewarding he get the job of director after years of moving the TFC in the right director.

But for Jensen, this new job helped him become closer to the Laker and Lady Laker basketball programs. In past years, he would attend games and get to know the players and coaching staff, this year he has been well please in the effort put forth by both parties.

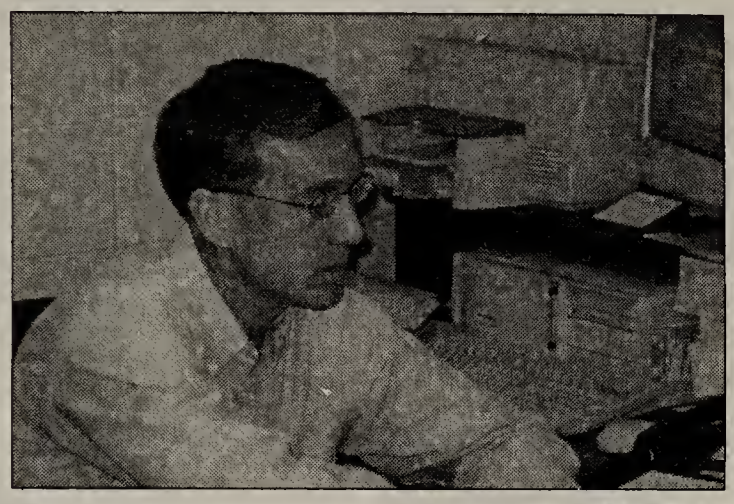


Photo by Dave Thompson

Rob Jensen, director of fitness, wellness and sports completes his first year as director.

"I was impressed with our student athletes and our coaching staff. They did a great job, and you have to realize, we play in a tough conference," Jensen said, referring to the CCAC (Chicago Colligate Athletic Conference.

The product on the court became fun to watch this past season considering that the Lakers won a couple key games in the end to force a home playoff game, and the Lady Lakers featured a number of new players that were interesting to watch. In the end, fan support went-up with the athletic counsel keeping tack of attendance records, and a higher showing at the concession stands only proved that the fan basis was there.

Student participation also helped attract an audience. During the course of the season, events were conducted at halftime of some games that featured PUC student organizations, including a free-throw shooting contest, and Laker Olympics. In the homecoming doubleheader, the Laker Shootout gave two individuals, one for each basketball game, to take a chance at $10,000. In the end, no one came through in picking-up the cash, but corporate sponsors gave their support in these events.

"Part of our strategy was getting our students involved. Pepsi sponsored the Laker Olympics while UPS sponsored the Laker Shootout. It was great to have different groups show-up," Jensen said.

While it might only be basketball that's the only intercollegiate athletics PUC has to offer, it is through intramurals that more teams could develop. Already under Jensen, these club sports have expanded in the form of flag football and whiffleball, in addition to its current programs of basketball and volleyball. But besides which, it will take issues concerning budget and student support before more teams could form. Jensen has described his working relationship with Chancellor Howard Cohen, Vice Chancellor Leo Bryant, and members of the student government as being open in expanding ideas on campus in trying new things and receiving student input.

"Rob Jensen has been critical to the significant expansion of programming at PUC. He's become one of the most dynamic and energetic young administrators on campus," SGA Vice President Nick Orange said.

TFC continues its commitment to PUC, Calumet Region

FRANK SPRANKLE
Sports Editor

PUC's Total Fitness Center has developed a reputation in serving its students, in addition to the general public as well. From Sunday to Saturday on any week, members flock to the center for exercise and therefore maintain a healthy lifestyle.

At a cost of only $16 per semester, any PUC student can join, while the fee for graduate students, rounds out to $42 during a semester.

"At first, I did not know what to expect, in most other health clubs you pay it seems $25 a month," PUC junior Mike Ramirez said, who is also TFC member.

Ramirez, a radio/television major, takes advantage of the fitness center anywhere from three to four times a week, mostly confined to the middy hours. However, the center's busiest period is in the time range of 3:30-6:30 P.M.

But the TFC, which is open seven days a week, has hours that vary. Currently, the facility opens its doors at 5:30 A.M. and closes at 10:00 P.M. weekdays, with the exception of Friday's, in which closing time occurs two hours earlier. On weekends, the hours run until 3:00 P.M.. And let, while some students engage in summer classes, the TFC remains in full operation, with the hours varying on weekdays.

Besides the PUC population, the TFC is also open to people from around the Calumet Area, with payments ranging from $55 monthly to $115 for a three-month membership to $400 yearly. The price for senior citizens however differs.

"I think the price is quite good. Anyone that is serious might look at some of the other health clubs, but the staff here is great," Muster resident Olga Mihalo said.

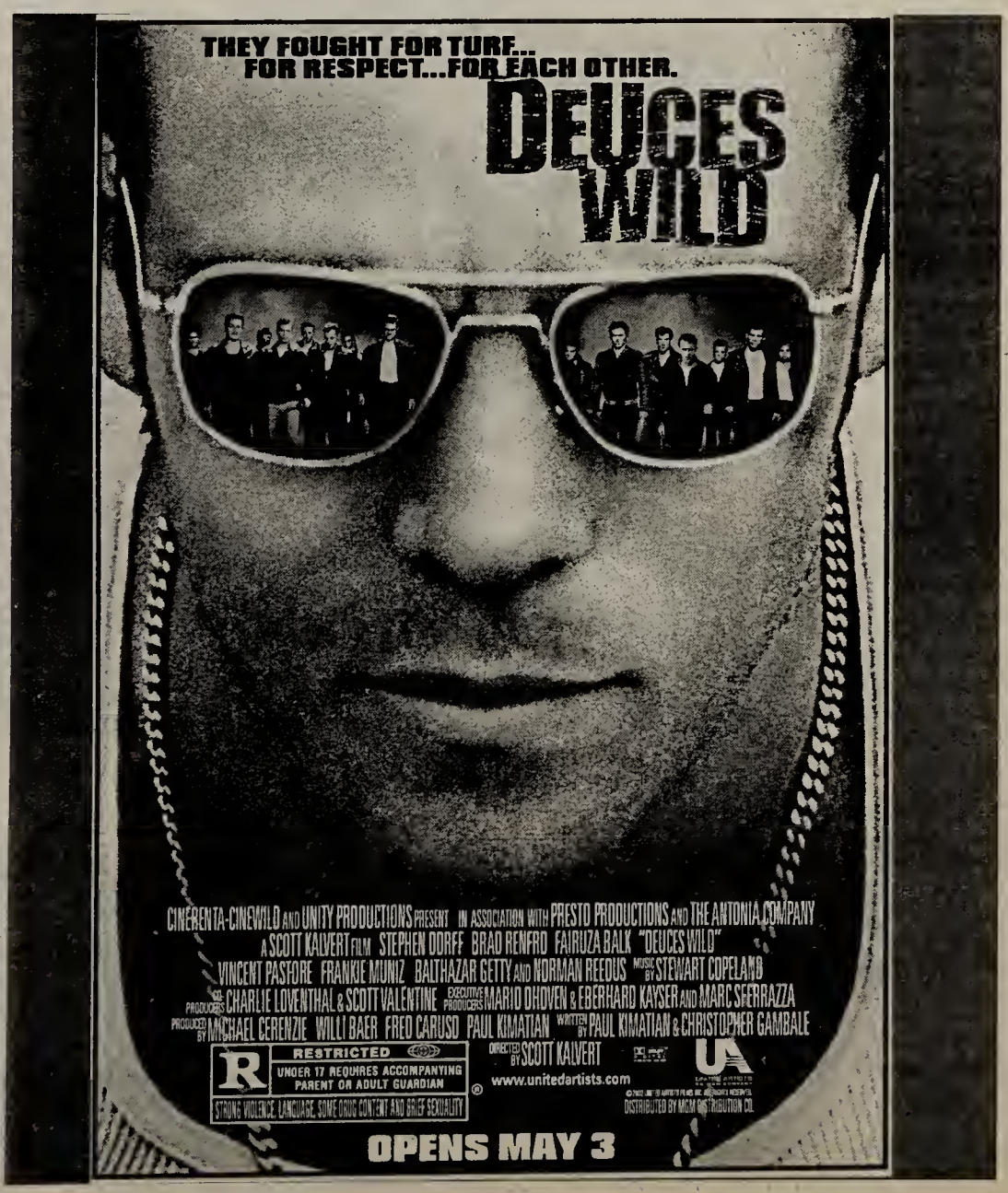
In her first full year as a TFC member, Mihalo, a senior citizen, works out daily. She convinced her husband to switch from his prior health club, where he worked-out with friends.

"Within the first three months, I loss 13 pounds. I feel stronger now, before I could not get-up off the ground," Mihalo said.

Besides its main exercise room and two weight rooms, any TFC member can shoot hoops in the PER Building gym, or run on an indoor track.

Members can take part in extracurricular activities to the likes of aerobics classes and intramural sports.

"The TFC is a good deal, other clubs have a staff that is certified, but we are unique, we are very professional," TFC staff member Tabby Stills said.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